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The European Community (EC)

NAL SRB 89-09

July 1989

Prepared by:

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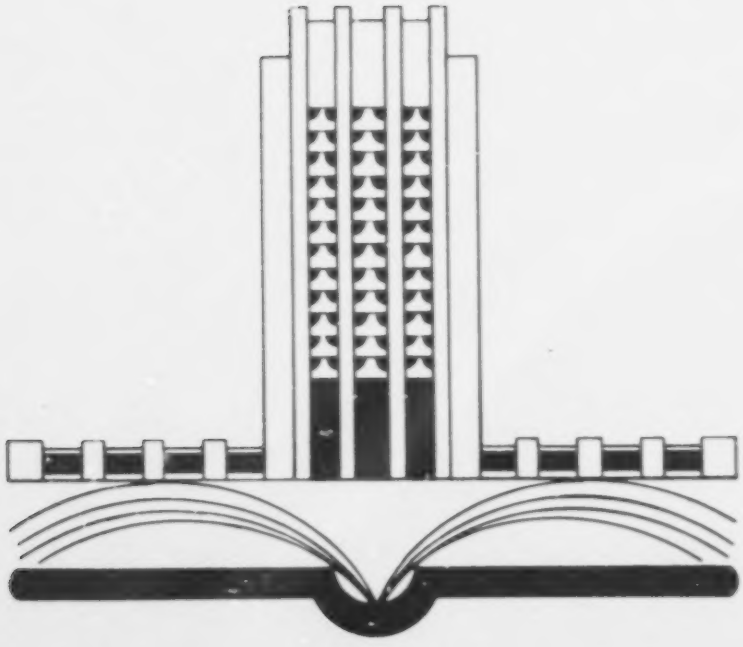

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THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
(EC)

Background

Since the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community in 1952, the European Economic Community, and the European Atomic Energy Community in 1958, the three communities worked to move together toward a single European Community.

The European Community (EC) is defined as a group of European nations working to unite their economic resources into a single economy. The EC has grown from six member states to its current twelve.

The twelve member Countries consist of:

Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, (1957); Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom, (1973); Greece, (1981); Portugal and Spain, (1986).

The EC began operating in 1958. Since its origins the European Community has acted toward greater economic integration and working to remove barriers, to the movements of goods, capital, labor, and services.

1992

The European Community designs to fully integrate its internal market by the end of 1992. This could make the EC more competitive in world markets and more efficacious in global affairs.

This integration will lead to major changes in the EC agriculture, such as: Harmonizing standards and regulations affecting plant and animal health, food labeling, packaging and testing, cutting trade barriers and improving exporters' access to the EC market. The 1992 program may also require removing agricultural border taxes and subsidies.

On the part of the European Community, 1992 represents an indispensable step to revitalize its economy and strengthen its position in global markets and worldwide agricultural policies.

By January 1993, the European Community will become a single market of more than 320 million consumers.

This Special Reference Brief covers selected materials from 1980 to the present, so that the reader who wishes current information can pursue the subject in greater depth.

The inclusion or omission of a particular organization, publication or citation may not be construed as endorsement or disapproval.

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